

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5042

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2005

EXPLORATION OF OIL RESERVES

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Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) the target fixed for exploration of oil and natural gas reserves during Ninth and Tenth Five Year Plan;
- (b) the number of oil wells drilled by the public sector oil companies in different parts of the country during the said period along with the quantity of oil and gas explored therefrom;
- (c) the expenditure incurred on drilling of these wells, during the said period; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to dig more oil wells in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS & PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) Targets fixed for hydrocarbon exploration for IX and X Five year plan are as under:

	IX Plan	X Plan
	(1997-2002)	(2002-2007)
2D Seismic survey (KM)	34745	98327
3D Seismic survey (Sq.KM)	7450	48305
Exploratory wells (Nos.)	776	871
Development wells (Nos.)	952	883
Total No. of wells	1728	1754
Reserve Accretion (Million Metric Tonne)	663-862	785-914

(b) & (c) : The number of wells drilled, in-place reserve accretion and expenditure incurred on drilling of these wells by public sector oil companies are given below:-

	IX Plan	X Plan
	(1997-2002)	(First 3 year i.e.2002-2005)
Exploratory wells(No)	750	411
Development wells (No)	828	637
In place reserve accretion (MMT)	563.30	293.07
Expenditure incurred on		
Drilling(Rs. in Crore)	10667.33	11839.59

(d) For exploration of hydrocarbons, Government have taken the following steps:-

(i) New areas for further exploration have been opened up under the New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP). Under NELP, 90 exploration blocks have been awarded to various companies in four rounds of exploratory bidding held till now. The exploration work in NELP blocks has led to 19 oil/gas discoveries so far. 20 more exploration blocks have been offered for international competitive bidding under the fifth round of NELP.

(ii) Accelerated exploration programme by National Oil Companies (NOCs) in areas awarded to them on a nomination basis.